

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05358 021613Z

42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 IO-10

/085 W

----- 055941

R 021539Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4232

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5358

ARA/LA/MRSD O'GRADY PASS SUBSTANCE TO AFL-CIO MCLELLAN AND AIFLD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, ELAB

SUBJECT: ARRESTS OF UNION LEADERS; PSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF
TRAINING SESSIONS

REF: SANTIAGO 5186; SANTIAGO 5051

1. SUMMARY: GOC MAY BE GETTING TOUGHER ON WHAT IT CONSIDERS
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ACTIVITY BY LABOR. ALL BUT ONE OF 11
COPPER WORKERS DETAINED IN JULY (REFTELS) REMAIN IN SOME KIND
OF CONFINEMENT, AND GOC HAS ARRESTED OTHER UNION LEADERS AND
WORKERS. LABOR MINISTER AND INTERIOR UNDER SEC JULY 31
ISSUED CONFLICTING STATEMENTS ON WHETHER UNION TRAINING
SEMINARS ARE PRESENTLY PERMITTED, AND GOVERNMENT EVIDENTLY
IS NERVOUS ABOUT LABOR MEETINGS OF ANY TYPE. AIFLD SEMINAR
NOW UNDERWAY HAS EXPERIENCED NO PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. COPPER WORKERS CONFED (CTC) PRES SANTANA INFORMED LABATT
THAT GOC OFFERED TO RELEASE 11 DETAINED COPPER UNION LEADERS
(REFTELS) IF THEY WOULD RESIGN FROM JOBS. SEVEN SIGNED
RESIGNATIONS AND ON JULY 29 WERE EXILED ("RELEGADO") TO SMALL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05358 021613Z

RESORT TOWN OF CALDERA IN NORTHERN PROVINCE OF THEIR

RESIDENCE. THEY WERE NOT TOLD WHEN THEY WILL BE FREED OR HOW LONG THEY MUST REMAIN IN CALDERA. THREE WHO REFUSED TO RESIGN ARE REPORTEDLY STILL HELD IN COPIAPO JAIL (LUIS VILLENA, GEN SEC OF CTC AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, AND TWO OTHER PDC LOCAL LEADERS). FOURTH WHO REFUSED TO RESIGN WAS RELEASED JULY 28 AND ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK.

3. SANTANA SAYS THAT RELEASED LEADER CLAIMS ALL PRISONERS WERE SEVERELY BEATEN SHORTLY AFTER ARRESTS. VILLENA REPORTEDLY HAD TO GO TO JAIL INFIRMARY SEVERAL DAYS AND ANOTHER DETAINEE VOMITED BLOOD FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

4. UNDER SEC INTERIOR MONTERO JULY 31 TOLD PRESS COPPER WORKERS HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR UNAUTHORIZED MEETING. SAME SENSITIVITY ON MEETINGS (IF THAT WAS REASON FOR EARLIER ARRESTS) MAY HAVE LED TO GOC DETENTION OF (1) CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION (FIEMC) PRESIDENT HECTOR CUEVAS (COMMUNIST PARTY) AND (2) THREE LEADERS OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION. FORMER FAILED TO GET HOME AFTER CHAIRING SMALL GATHERING OF SANTIAGO UNION LEADERS CONVENED TO DISCUSS "ECONOMIC PROBLEMS." LATTER WERE ATTENDING SEMINAR CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES (INSTITUTIO NACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS SOCIALIES - INES), OPERATED BY PRIEST WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM UNITED WORKERS FRONT (FUT), WHICH IN TURN RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR'S LATIN AMERICAN ARM, CLAT. THREE INES STAFF MEMBERS WERE ALSO ARRESTED.

5. ALSO APPARENTLY ARRESTED IN SANTIAGO AREA WAS FERNANDO BOBADILLA, COMMUNIST PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS FEDERATION (FENATEX). SEPTEL REPORTS ARREST OF 10 WORKERS AT MINE NEAR NORTHERN TOWN OF COPIAPO ON CHARGE OF REFUSING TO WORK OVERTIME ON ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE.

6. THERE IS CONFUSION OVER CONFLICTING GOVERNMENT SIGNALS ON UNION SEMINARS OR TRAINING SESSIONS. WEEK AGO POSTAL TELEGRAPH WORKERS ASSOCIATION (WHICH ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOC) WAS TOLD IN WRITING TO DROP PLANNED SEMINAR. UNDER SEC MONTERO JULY 31 REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS "UNION TRAINING MEETINGS ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED". SAME DAY, HOWEVER, LABOR MINISTER DIAZ REPORTEDLY SAID THERE WAS NO GENERAL SUSPENSION, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05358 021613Z

THAT INTERIOR HAD TAKEN ACTION TO CLOSE SEMINARS WITH "POLITICAL" COLORATION.

7. AIFLD/CHILE PROGRAM IS CONDUCTING ONE SEMINAR IN SANTIAGO WITH NO DIFFICULTIES.

8. COMMENT: STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER GOC IS TAKING STRONGER ACTION AGAINST LABOR LEADERS IT CONSIDERS OBJECTIONABLE, OR

WHETHER ARRESTS ARE ISOLATED ACTS OF LOCAL MILITARY LEADERS.
AMBIGUITY ON LABOR MEETINGS IS OBVIOUS.

9. ACTIONS HAVE CAUSED DEEP CONCERN IN ORGANIZED LABOR.
MOST LEADERS ARE PUZZLED, WORRIED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY,
AND BELIEVE GOC IS TAKING HARDER LINE.
POPPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, ARRESTS, PRISONERS WELFARE, PRISONERS RELEASE, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA05358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750267-0965
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750887/aaaacykt.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANTIAGO 5186, 75 SANTIAGO 5051
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARRESTS OF UNION LEADERS; POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF TRAINING SESSIONS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CI, PDC, CTC, AIFLD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006